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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Report on the seventh session
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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

1. The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its seventh session and provisional agenda and dates for the eighth session of the Committee

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its seventh session;[1]

(b) Decides that the eighth session of the Committee of Experts shall be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 1 to 3 August 2018;

(c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the eighth session of the Committee of Experts as set out below:

Provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Strengthening geospatial information management.
4. Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda.
5. Global geodetic reference frame.
6. Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes.
7. Trends in national institutional arrangements in global geospatial information management.
8. Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data.
9. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community.
10. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information.
11. Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management.
12. Geospatial information for sustainable development.
13. Geospatial information and services for disasters.

[1] E/2017/46-E/C.20/2017/18.

14. Marine geospatial information.

15. National geospatial data and information systems.

16. Strengthening collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

17. Review of United Nations activities in geospatial information management.

18. Programme management report.

19. Provisional agenda and dates for the ninth session of the Committee of Experts.

20. Report of the Committee of Experts on its eighth session.

B. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following decisions adopted by the Committee of Experts are brought to the attention of the Council:

7/101
Strengthening geospatial information management

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretariat and the expanded Bureau[2] and their efforts to take practical and strategic action to implement Economic and Social Council resolution 2016/27 of 27 July 2016 on strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management;

(b) Noted and expressed support for progress on the 2017-2021 strategic framework, and agreed that it provided a reference for prioritizing the work of the Committee and a tangible means to communicate its work;

(c) Suggested that efforts to implement the framework should be maximized through the support of the regional committees, thematic groups and other relevant stakeholders;

(d) Noted the central importance of strengthening capacity-building in geospatial information management and relevant statistical integration, especially in developing countries, and requested the Bureau to pay special attention to that topic;

(e) Encouraged the regional committees of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management to continue their outreach to the regional commissions of the United Nations, determine possible mechanisms for collaboration and report progress back to the Committee at its next session;

(f) Acknowledged the offers of active support and, in that regard, stressed the need to mobilize extrabudgetary resources for the Committee's operations, to cover the cost of participation in its annual sessions by developing countries and to provide effective Secretariat support.

[2] See E/C.20/2017/15.

7/102
Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Commended the progress of the five regional committees of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management, including the convening of their annual plenary meetings during the intersessional period, and the successful international thematic technical workshops in the pursuance of the objectives of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Member States;

(b) Expressed its appreciation for the efforts aimed at increasing regional cooperation and for the important focus on building geospatial capacity in each region, including the Caribbean project being carried out under the leadership of Mexico;

(c) Noted the requests for the regional commissions to provide support to address concerns expressed by the regional committees with regard to technical training programmes, capacity development, participation in annual meetings and uptake of regional and global technical activities;

(d) Welcomed the convening of the fifth High-level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management, to be hosted by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico in Mexico City in November 2017, with an overarching theme of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and the role of geospatial technology and innovation;

(e) Expressed its appreciation for the continuing contributions of the three United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management networks to the Committee's programme of work, in particular with regard to efforts to support the expert and working groups of the Committee and expand their affiliations within the regional committee processes.

Decision 7/103
Global geodetic reference frame

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the working group on the global geodetic reference frame,[3] and commended the working group on its work, broad consultations, communication and outreach strategies;

(b) Endorsed the formal establishment and composition of the subcommittee on geodesy, agreed with the proposed terms of reference and transition plan, and encouraged further membership of developing countries with the assistance of the regional committees;

(c) Expressed support for the planned activities of the Subcommittee, including developing the road map implementation plan, developing the position paper on appropriate governance arrangements, building the web of communication experts of the global geodetic reference frame and developing a five-year strategic plan;

(d) Noted the offers of assistance by regional committees and Member States to support technical and communication strategies for the global geodetic reference frame;

[3] E/C.20/2017/4.

(e) Also noted the convening of the inaugural meeting of the subcommittee on the margins of the High-level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management, to be held in Mexico City in November 2017.

Decision 7/104
Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report prepared by the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe[4] on behalf of the working group on global fundamental geospatial data themes, as well as the leadership of the working group, and noted the comprehensive work undertaken to address the issues relating to global fundamental geospatial data themes;

(b) Adopted the proposed minimum list of global fundamental geospatial data themes, subject to minor suggested amendments;

(c) Expressed support for the offer of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe, including domain experts, to continue to develop more details for each theme, and to work with the Secretariat and other groups to draw up plans for promoting and making the proposed minimum list better known, accepted and applied within the wider community, including the non-geospatial community;

(d) Noted the suggestions for the working group to consider, namely, measures to implement the data themes, recognition of positioning as a theme, expert review of data themes, integration of themes with statistics, Earth observations and imagery, and ensuring that the use of themes remained technical in nature so as not to raise any political concerns;

(e) Welcomed the support of regional initiatives, including EuroGeographics, the Pan American Institute of Geography and History and the Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure, for their respective data contributions to the fundamental data themes, including the second administrative-level boundaries project, and urged Member States to continue to contribute to that important initiative.

Decision 7/105
Trends in national institutional arrangements in global geospatial information management

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the comprehensive report of the working group on trends in national institutional arrangements,[5] and the valuable contribution of the University of Leuven (Belgium), in producing an overarching framework for national institutional arrangements, inclusive of instruments, principles and guidelines;

(b) Expressed appreciation for the efforts carried out by the working group to focus and consolidate the considerable body of work already achieved, and endorsed the overarching framework as an integrated process for implementing national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management for Member States;

[4] See E/C.20/2017/5.
[5] See E/C.20/2017/6.

(c) Commended the compendium of good practices as a tangible means of demonstrating models of institutional arrangements across geographic regions, and encouraged Member States to contribute to that effort;

(d) Expressed support for the detailed methodologies for and approaches to preparing national institutional arrangement guidelines and recommendations, formulating the framework of structural and managerial instruments used to establish recommendations to evaluate or improve management structures across Governments and identifying good practices and their applications across Member States;

(e) Agreed that developing an easy-to-understand guide to facilitate the use of the principles and instruments by users who were not familiar with geospatial information management concepts was a practical and commendable next step to further the work of the working group;

(f) Noted the suggestion to consider linking together the independent efforts and documents of the activities of the Committee's expert and working groups, in particular the global geodetic reference frame, fundamental data themes, geospatial standards, legal and policy frameworks, shared principles and national institutional arrangements, so that they provided a coherent overview of fundamental geospatial information development.

Decision 7/106
Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretariat and the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy,[6] and noted the progress that had been made in addressing legal and policy frameworks and issues relating to authoritative data;

(b) Expressed appreciation for the convening of the successful International Forum on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management, held in Kuala Lumpur in October 2016, and welcomed the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information, which provided the Committee with a feasible path forward to address those issues;

(c) Endorsed the establishment of the working group on legal and policy frameworks for geospatial information management, its terms of reference and initial composition, as proposed, and encouraged Member States to participate in and contribute to the working group, noting the need for appropriate expertise and diversity;

(d) Requested the working group to develop mechanisms for Member States to build capacity to address the legal and policy matters that had an impact on the collection, dissemination and application of geospatial information, and, in that regard, expressed appreciation for the development and preparation of the compendium on the licensing of geospatial information, and for the wide reviews and consultation that the compendium had received;

(e) Welcomed the constructive interactions with the International Bar Association, and noted that the Association was no longer proceeding with the proposed convention on geoinformation and had offered to build a productive

[6] See E/C.20/2017/7.

and collaborative relationship with the Committee to support its legal and policy efforts;

(f) Noted that the development of training curricula and materials in support of subregional and regional training workshops in the licensing of geospatial information related to the dissemination of geospatial information was being considered;

(g) Also noted the comments about analysing a number of complex issues regarding geospatial information, including definitions of open data, personal data, data privacy, data protection, data licensing and the security and misuse of data.

Decision 7/107
Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information,[7] and noted the endorsement of the global statistical geospatial framework by the Statistical Commission at its forty-eighth session, held in March 2017;

(b) Endorsed the emphasis of the Statistical Commission on strengthening the mandate of the Expert Group to become the overall coordination group for all activities in the area of the integration of statistical and geospatial information, and for regional statistical bodies to develop and strengthen partnerships with the regional committees;

(c) Urged the regional committees to continue to reach out to and engage with their respective regional statistical counterparts to further strengthen partnerships;

(d) Commended the practical efforts to increase regional collaboration and visibility in promoting the implementation of the global statistical geospatial framework, including through the workshop on integrating geospatial and statistical standards, facilitated by the Economic Commission for Europe and hosted by Statistics Sweden and the European Forum for Geography and Statistics, to be convened in Dublin in November 2017;

(e) Noted the efforts of Member States to strengthen the integration of geospatial and statistical information, and encouraged the continued refinement and implementation of the global statistical geospatial framework, including by formulating standardized data and metadata interoperability, paying attention to big data, developing technical tools and processes that were able to address challenges relating to regional and subregional integration, and, in that context, considering specific examples of institutional agreements and practices;

(f) Expressed support for the proposal that the expert group should actively contribute to the work of the 2020 Population and Housing Census to promote the integration of statistical and geospatial information and the implementation of the global statistical geospatial framework, and to build and strengthen knowledge management and capacity in developing countries, especially small island developing States.

[7] See E/C.20/2017/9.

Decision 7/108
Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the expert group on land administration and management,[8] and endorsed the programme of work of the expert group for the 2017-2018 biennium, subject to amendments as suggested by the Committee;

(b) Noted the need for continued advocacy and political awareness of the benefits of effective and efficient land administration and management, urged the expert group to continue to address the overarching policy guidance required to capture the key principles essential for establishing effective, efficient, sustainable and interoperable land administration and management systems, also noted that the principles-based overarching policy guidance should be flexible, recognizing the diverse social and economic contexts within national and subnational land administration arrangements, and further noted that close collaboration with the existing international bodies active in that field was mandatory in order to avoid any duplication of efforts;

(c) Also noted the valuable efforts of the expert group in contributing to relevant land indicators of the global indicator framework in support of efforts to improve and accelerate the proportion of the global population that had access to secure tenure of land;

(d) Further noted the numerous suggestions for the expert group to consider in its programme of work, including focusing on issues related to interoperability, partnerships and the exchange of technology for developing countries, and the merits and benefits of a good land administration system that improved the security of tenure.

Decision 7/109
Geospatial information for sustainable development

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the working group on geospatial information of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators,[9] and commended the working group on its progress and its efforts to ensure that the contribution of the global geospatial information community to the Sustainable Development Goal process remained rigorous and relevant;

(b) Commended the working group for having completed its review and analysis of the global indicator framework through a "geographic location" lens;

(c) Recognized that the combined geospatial and statistical expertise of the working group positioned it appropriately to facilitate and support a "data ecosystem" that leveraged an accessible, integrative and interoperable local-to-global information system for measuring and monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals and tracking annual progress;

(d) Encouraged the working group to work more closely with the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, since the development of the principles-based global statistical geospatial

[8] See E/C.20/2017/10.
[9] See E/C.20/2017/11.

framework would facilitate consistent and authoritative production and integration approaches for geostatistical information;

(e) Acknowledged that the global geospatial information environment was dynamic and innovative, with the emergence of new technologies, methods and processes, and, in that regard, agreed that data availability and quality remained one of the biggest challenges for Member States and that data, when available, must also be accessible, consistent and sustainable for the production of indicators to provide information on the agreed goals and targets, in accordance with national priorities and needs.

Decision 7/110
Geospatial information and services for disasters

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the working group on geospatial information and services for disasters,[11] and commended the work and effort of the working group in refining the draft strategic framework on geospatial information and services for disasters, inclusive of the inputs from the global consultation;

(b) Commended the efforts of the working group in providing additional broad consultation and communication of the draft framework at international conferences and forums, and in continuing to enable the geospatial community to engage with disaster, emergency management and humanitarian experts;

(c) Recognized that using geospatial information for managing all disasters was growing in importance, that bringing real-time integration of statistical and geospatial data was a new use case for many statistical and geospatial agencies and that the Committee had an important role to play to enable the development of those services for the benefit of society;

(d) Adopted the strategic framework on geospatial information and services for disasters as a guide for Member States in their respective national activities to ensure the availability and accessibility of quality geospatial information and services across all phases of the emergency cycle, and as a means to reach out and engage with decision makers, and endorsed the consideration of drafting a resolution presenting the strategic framework for adoption by the Economic and Social Council;

(e) Welcomed the valuable offers to contribute to the implementation of the framework through the organizing of special sessions and conferences to assist in national and regional development of implementation plans, and to develop guidelines for disaster management for national geospatial information agencies that would be consistent with the strategic framework;

(f) Noted the multiple dimensions of data needs for disasters and stressed the importance of the mutual sharing of information between local, national and international responders while recognizing the need to protect individual privacy;

(g) Expressed support for the proposal of the working group to develop an assessment tool to assist Member States and the regional committees of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management to evaluate and develop their respective implementation plans, and to monitor and report progress on the implementation of the strategic framework.

[11] See E/C.20/2017/12.

Decision 7/111
Marine geospatial information

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretariat on marine geospatial information,[11] and agreed that strengthening global geospatial information management included addressing marine geospatial information to support Member States in developing national policy, determining strategic priorities, making decisions and measuring and monitoring global development outcomes;

(b) Endorsed the terms of reference and establishment of the working group on marine geospatial information, and welcomed the participation and contribution of Member States to the working group, noting the need for appropriate technical expertise and broad geographical representation;

(c) Noted that, given the complexity and broad scope of marine geospatial information, it was critical to ensure that the working group engaged with the appropriate subject matter experts to ensure that the working group remained focused, within its scope, not political in nature and connected to the activities of other working groups of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management, where and as appropriate;

(d) Encouraged the newly formed working group to provide a forum for dialogue and collaboration between Member States to address issues related to the availability, accessibility and application of marine geospatial information, and linkages to national spatial data infrastructure, to ensure the principle of "build once, use many times".

Decision 7/112
National geospatial data and information systems

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Noted the report of the Secretariat, prepared with the assistance of the World Bank Group, on new developments with regard to national geospatial data and information systems[12] and the progress made by the Bureau, the Secretariat and the World Bank in that respect, and applauded the timeliness of that initiative as an urgent mechanism to assist countries in further developing their national geospatial information systems;

(b) Welcomed and expressed support for the collaborative agreement between the Statistics Division and the World Bank, which formulated a joint vision to promote growth and prosperity, to assist countries to take practical actions to achieve a digital transformation, and to bridge the geospatial digital divide in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[13]

(c) Acknowledged the need for collaboration to develop an overarching geospatial framework that went beyond just technical matters and that countries could reference when implementing integrated evidence-based decision-making solutions that maximized and leveraged national systems tailored to their own situations, and welcomed the numerous offers of cooperation and support by Member States to develop that initiative further;

[11] See E/C.20/2017/16.
[12] See E/C.20/2017/13.
[13] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

(d) Noted the need to leverage and build upon the ongoing activities of the Committee and Member States, including guides, standards and frameworks, and the sharing of good practices and experiences in the development of the country-level action plans and road maps to operationalize and ensure the sustainability of the geospatial framework.

Decision 7/113
Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report[14] on the implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community, as presented, and expressed its appreciation to the Open Geospatial Consortium, technical committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization, and the International Hydrographic Organization for their continuing support and valuable work;

(b) Noted the efforts of the international standards organizations in their contributions towards the provision of geospatial standards in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and statistical-geospatial integration, in particular with regard to the joint study group and the discrete global grid system;

(c) Also noted the importance of geospatial standards and the associated training requirements related to understanding and implementing them, and encouraged the international standards community, in collaboration with the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Academic Network, to explore mechanisms for enhancing standards training and the subsequent communication to and engagement of non-experts;

(d) Welcomed the proposed survey on considering a review and update of the standards guide and companion documents, and urged Member States to contribute and to provide feedback on their use of the standards guide and implementing standards within their national frameworks;

(e) Noted the encouragement by the standards development organizations of participation by Member States in the international geospatial standards development processes of technical committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization, the Open Geospatial Consortium and the International Hydrographic Organization to ensure that the geospatial standards required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals were available, understood and implemented.

Decision 7/114
Strengthening collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,[15] and commended its efforts to engage in a dialogue with the Committee to define an effective and streamlined relationship between the Group of Experts and the Committee;

[14] See E/C.20/2017/8.
[15] See E/C.20/2017/17.

(b) Endorsed the proposal to build a stronger relationship between the Group of Experts and the Committee, to advance the cause of geographical names and geospatial information management, keeping the process technical and not political in nature, and encouraged an ongoing relationship towards that end;

(c) Expressed support for the common principles of cooperation as a positive communication tool and a means for closer collaboration, and for the strengthening of arrangements on geospatial information management;

(d) Recognized that the real benefits of cooperation and collaboration would need to be anchored at the national level and that it would be critical for national delegates from the Group of Experts and the Committee to establish and continue their outreach on an ongoing basis.

Decision 7/115
Review of United Nations activities in geospatial information management

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretariat on the review of United Nations activities in geospatial information management,[10] including the overview it provided of existing geospatial resources, activities and governance arrangements within the United Nations system;

(b) Agreed that efforts should be made to consider a more structured and sustainable coordination approach for geospatial information management activities within the United Nations system;

(c) Emphasized the need for the Secretariat to continue its consultations concerning the questionnaire, to continue to seek clarification and expand on responses received, and to reach out to United Nations entities that had not yet responded, with a view to maintaining a list of points of contact within the United Nations system;

(d) As a starting point, recommended option 3 contained in the above-mentioned report as the most realistic mechanism, and thus agreed to establish a United Nations system network within its global architecture, which, once established, could then review and possibly implement further options at an appropriate time in the future, with the guidance and support of the Committee.

C. Oral report considered by the Committee

Programme management report

3. The Director of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat provided an oral report on programme management issues related to the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management, which contained an assessment of the need to set priorities for its many activities that were supported by the secretariat and, in that context, committed to focusing on implementation, as well as on the need to collectively explore extrabudgetary funding arrangements (trust fund, secondments) to enable the secretariat to further advance the global geospatial information agenda.

[10] See E/C.20/2017/14.

Chapter II
Items for endorsement, discussion and decision

A. Strengthening geospatial information management

4. The Committee of Experts considered item 3 of its agenda at its 1st meeting, held on 2 August. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on strengthening geospatial information management,[17] which was introduced by the Interregional Adviser on Global Geospatial Information Management of the Statistics Division.

5. At the 1st meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Mexico, Belgium, India, the Netherlands, Japan, Spain (on behalf of the working group on trends in national institutional arrangements), Singapore, the United States of America, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Australia and China.

6. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean.

7. Also at the same meeting, the Interregional Adviser on Global Geospatial Information Management summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

8. At its 5th meeting, held on 4 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 7/101).

B. Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda

9. The Committee of Experts considered item 4 of its agenda at its 1st and 2nd meetings, held on 2 August. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda.[17] The chairs of the five regional committees and three United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management networks made introductory statements.

10. At the same meeting, the Interregional Adviser on Global Geospatial Information Management summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

11. At its 5th meeting, held on 4 August 2017, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 7/102).

C. Global geodetic reference frame

12. The Committee of Experts considered item 5 of its agenda at its 2nd meeting, held on 2 August. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the global geodetic reference frame.[17] The co-chair of the working group on the global geodetic reference frame made an introductory statement.

[17] Available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

13. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Tuvalu, Australia, Norway, Mexico, Sweden, France, Belgium, Ireland, India, Jamaica, New Zealand, the United States, the Bahamas, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Saudi Arabia, Argentina, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Austria, Kenya, Canada and Iceland.

14. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of EuroGeographics, the International Association of Geodesy and the International Federation of Surveyors, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or invited to participate as observers in the session of the Committee.

15. At its 2nd meeting, the Interregional Adviser on Global Geospatial Information Management summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

16. At its 5th meeting, held on 4 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 7/103).

D. Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes

17. The Committee of Experts considered item 6 of its agenda at its 2nd meeting, held on 2 August. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes,[17] which was introduced by the chair of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe.

18. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom, Sweden, the United States, New Zealand, Ireland, Australia, Mexico, India, Spain, Jamaica, Japan, the Philippines, Belgium, Austria, China, South Africa, Canada, Argentina and Singapore.

19. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the Economic Commission for Africa.

20. At its 2nd meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the University of Melbourne (Australia), a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or invited to participate as an observer in the session of the Committee.

21. At the same meeting, the Interregional Adviser on Global Geospatial Information Management summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

22. At its 6th meeting, held on 4 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 7/104).

E. Trends in national institutional arrangements in global geospatial information management

23. The Committee of Experts considered item 7 of its agenda at its 4th meeting, held on 3 August 2017. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on trends in national institutional arrangements in global geospatial information management,[17] which was introduced by the chair of the working group on trends in national institutional arrangements.

24. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Germany, New Zealand, Ethiopia, the United Kingdom, Peru, Belgium, Barbados, India, Sweden and Norway.

25. Also at the same meeting, the Interregional Adviser on Global Geospatial Information Management summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

26. At its 6th meeting, held on 4 August 2017, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 7/105).

F. Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data

27. The Committee of Experts considered item 8 of its agenda at its 4th meeting, held on 3 August. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data,[17] which was introduced by the Executive Director of the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy.

28. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Sweden, Ireland, Belgium, India, Japan, Mexico, Austria and Canada.

29. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of EuroGeographics, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or invited to participate as an observer in the session of the Committee.

30. At its 4th meeting, the Interregional Adviser on Global Geospatial Information Management Secretariat summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

31. At its 6th meeting, held on 4 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 7/106).

G. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community

32. The Committee of Experts considered item 9 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, held on 4 August 2017. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community,[17] which was introduced by the Executive Director of Communications and Outreach of the Open Geospatial Consortium.

33. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Sweden, Slovenia, India, Jamaica, Canada, the United Kingdom, Argentina, Myanmar, Kenya, the Republic of Moldova, Mexico, Ecuador, China, Tuvalu and Costa Rica, as well as by the observers for the State of Palestine and the International Hydrographic Organization.

34. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the Economic Commission for Africa.

35. At its 5th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (on behalf of the United Nations Global Information Management geospatial societies), the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, the University of Melbourne (on behalf of the United Nations Global

Geospatial Information Management Academic Network) and the International Organization for Standardization, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or invited to participate as observers in the session of the Committee.

36. At the same meeting, the Interregional Adviser on Global Geospatial Information Management summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

37. At its 6th meeting, held on 4 August 2017, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 7/113).

II. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information

38. The Committee of Experts considered item 10 of its agenda at its 3rd meeting, held on 3 August. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information,[17] which was introduced by the co-chair of the expert group on the integration of statistical and geospatial information.

39. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Sweden, Australia, Mexico, Ireland, New Zealand, India, Burkina Faso, Poland, the United States, Denmark, Cuba, Singapore, Peru, Canada, Barbados, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, Argentina, Norway, Nepal, the Philippines, Poland (on behalf of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Information Management for Europe), Côte d'Ivoire, China, Costa Rica, Honduras, Saint Kitts and Nevis and the Dominican Republic, as well as by the observer for the State of Palestine.

40. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by representatives of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

41. At its 3rd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Caribbean chapter of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association and the Group on Earth Observations, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or invited to participate as observers in the session of the Committee.

42. At the same meeting, the Interregional Adviser on Global Geospatial Information Management summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

43. At its 6th meeting, held on 4 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 7/107).

I. Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management

44. The Committee of Experts considered item 11 of its agenda at its 4th meeting, held on 3 August. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the application of geospatial information related to land administration and management,[17] which was introduced by the co-chair of the expert group on land administration and management.

45. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Austria, Sweden, Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda, Côte d'Ivoire, Germany, Slovenia, Suriname, Barbados, Spain (on behalf of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe), Sri Lanka, Peru, Belgium, Nepal, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, Canada, Kenya, Honduras, Malaysia, Costa Rica and Saint Lucia, as well as the observer for the State of Palestine.

46. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the International Organization for Standardization, the International Federation of Surveyors, and EuroGeographics, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or invited to participate as observers in the session of the Committee.

47. At its 4th meeting, the Interregional Adviser on Global Geospatial Information Management summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

48. At its 6th meeting, held on 4 August 2017, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 7/108).

J. Geospatial information for sustainable development

49. The Committee of Experts considered item 12 of its agenda at its 2nd meeting, held on 2 August 2017. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on geospatial information for sustainable development,[17] which was introduced by the co-chair of the working group on geospatial information of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators.

50. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Germany, Mexico, India, Spain, Japan, Burkina Faso, China, Cuba and Iran (Islamic Republic of), as well as by the observer for the State of Palestine.

51. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by representatives of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

52. At its 2nd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the International Cartographic Association and the Group on Earth Observations, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or invited to participate as observers in the session of the Committee.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

53. At its 6th meeting, held on 4 August 2017, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 7/109).

K. Geospatial information and services for disasters

54. The Committee of Experts considered item 13 of its agenda at its 3rd meeting, held on 3 August. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on geospatial information and services for disasters,[17] which was introduced jointly by the co-chairs of the working group on geospatial information and services for disasters.

55. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Antigua and Barbuda, New Zealand, Sweden, Ethiopia, India, Mexico, Poland, Singapore, Kenya, the Netherlands, Peru, the United States, Malaysia,

Japan, Ecuador, the United Kingdom, China, Argentina, Guatemala, Nepal, the Philippines, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Costa Rica and Honduras, as well as by the observer for the State of Palestine.

56. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the Economic Commission for Africa.

57. At its 3rd meeting, statements were made by representatives of the Caribbean chapter of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association, EuroGeographics, the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, the European Space Agency, Politecnico di Milano (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Academic Network), Geospatial Media and Communications (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management private sector network) and the Group on Earth Observations, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or invited to participate as observers in the session of the Committee.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

58. At its 6th meeting, held on 4 August 2017, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 7/110).

L. Marine geospatial information

59. The Committee of Experts considered item 14 of its agenda at its 4th meeting, held on 3 August. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on marine geospatial information,[17] which was introduced by the chief geospatial scientist of the Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce of the United States.

60. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Canada, Singapore, Brazil, Italy, Denmark, India, Malaysia, Chile, Australia, China, Sweden, Jamaica, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Norway, South Africa, Spain, the United Kingdom, Iceland, the Philippines, Costa Rica and the Republic of Korea, as well as by the observer for the State of Palestine.

61. Also at the same meeting, a statement was also made by observer for the International Hydrographic Organization and a representative of the United Nations Environment Programme.

62. At its 4th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Caribbean chapter of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association and the European Space Agency, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or invited to participate as observers in the session of the Committee.

63. At the same meeting, the Interregional Adviser on Global Geospatial Information Management summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

64. At its 6th meeting, held on 4 August 2017, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 7/111).

M. National geospatial data and information systems

65. The Committee of Experts considered item 15 of its agenda at its 3rd meeting, held on 3 August 2017. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on national

geospatial data and information systems,[17] which was introduced by the Director of the Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience Global Practice at the World Bank.

66. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Mexico, Ethiopia, Japan, Sweden, Singapore, Guatemala, the United Kingdom, Slovenia, Burkina Faso, Spain, Jamaica, the Netherlands, Belgium, China, the United States, the Dominican Republic, Norway, Canada, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Peru, as well as by the observer for the State of Palestine.

67. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

68. At its 3rd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Caribbean chapter of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association, EuroGeographics and Global Spatial Data Infrastructure, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or invited to participate as observers in the session of the Committee.

69. At the same meeting, the Interregional Adviser on Global Geospatial Information Management summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

70. At its 6th meeting, held on 4 August 2017, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 7/112).

N. Strengthening collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

71. The Committee of Experts considered item 16 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, held on 4 August 2017. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on strengthening collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,[17] which was introduced by the chair of that Group.

72. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Brazil, Australia, Nepal, the United States, Sweden (on behalf of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe), Japan, South Africa, Canada, Norway, Honduras, India, Mexico, Myanmar, Belgium and Argentina, as well as by the observer for the State of Palestine.

73. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Open Geospatial Consortium and the University of Melbourne (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Academic Network), non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or invited to participate as observers in the session of the Committee.

74. At its 5th meeting, the Interregional Adviser on Global Geospatial Information Management summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

75. At its 6th meeting, held on 4 August 2017, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 7/114).

O. Review of United Nations activities in geospatial information management

76. The Committee of Experts considered item 17 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, held on 4 August 2017. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of United Nations activities in geospatial information management,[17] which was introduced by the Director of the Statistics Division.

77. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Philippines, Belgium, Sweden, Mexico, Ethiopia, Japan, Norway, the United States, Burkina Faso, India and Guatemala.

78. Also at the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the World Health Organization and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

79. At its 5th meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

80. At its 6th meeting, held on 4 August 2017, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 7/115).

P. Programme management report

81. The Committee of Experts considered item 18 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, held on 4 August 2017. The Director of the Statistics Division made a statement.

Chapter III

Provisional agenda and dates for the eighth session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

82. The Committee of Experts considered item 19 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, held on 4 August 2017. It had before it a note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Committee of Experts (E/C.20/2017/L.2). The Director of the Statistics Division made an introductory statement.

83. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Spain.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

84. At its 5th meeting, held on 4 August, the Committee of Experts approved the draft provisional agenda for its eighth session, and entrusted the Bureau with streamlining and finalizing it. The Committee also decided to recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for approval (see chap. I, sect. A).

85. At the same meeting, the Committee of Experts decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that its eighth session be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 1 to 3 August 2018 (see chap. I, sect. A).

Chapter IV
Report of the Committee of Experts on its seventh session

86. The Committee of Experts considered item 20 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, held on 4 August.

87. The Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Committee on its seventh session (E/C.20/2017/L.3), together with an informal paper containing draft decisions.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

88. At its 6th meeting, held on 4 August 2017, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft report on its seventh session, including the draft decisions contained therein, as orally revised, and entrusted the Rapporteur with streamlining and finalizing it, with the support of the Secretariat.

Chapter V
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

89. The Committee of Experts held its seventh session from 2 to 4 August 2017 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Committee held six meetings (1st to 6th).

B. Election of officers

90. At its 1st meeting, held on 2 August, the Committee of Experts elected the following officers by acclamation:

Co-Chairs:
Dorine Burmanje (Netherlands)
Li Pengde (China)
Timothy Trainor (United States of America)

Rapporteur:
Fernand Guy Isseri (Cameroon)

C. Agenda and organization of work

91. At its 1st meeting, held on 2 August, the Committee of Experts adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document E/C.20/2017/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Strengthening geospatial information management.
4. Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda.
5. Global geodetic reference frame.
6. Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes.
7. Trends in national institutional arrangements in global geospatial information management.
8. Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data.
9. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community.
10. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information.
11. Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management.
12. Geospatial information for sustainable development.
13. Geospatial information and services for disasters.
14. Marine geospatial information.

15. National geospatial data and information systems.

16. Strengthening collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

17. Review of United Nations activities in geospatial information management.

18. Programme management report.

19. Provisional agenda and dates for the eighth session of the Committee of Experts.

20. Report of the Committee of Experts on its seventh session.

92. At the same meeting, the Committee of Experts approved the organization of work for the session.

D. Attendance

93. The session was attended by 394 participants, including 279 representatives from 87 Member States and 10 representatives from 2 non-Member States. Also present were 105 representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations. The list of participants is contained in document E/C.20/2017/INF/2, and is also available from the website of the Committee of Experts at http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html.

94. The Committee also invited the following organizations, which do not have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, to participate in the work of the session as observers: AAM Group; Austrian Academy of Sciences; Bentley Systems-Asia; Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; Booz Allen Hamilton; Cadastral Solutions; Caribbean chapter of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association; Carleton University; CARTO; Centre for Spatial Law and Policy; Columbia University (New York); ConsultingWhere Ltd; Cooperative Research Centre for Spatial Information-Australia; Deloitte & Touche LLP; DigitalGlobe; Earth-i; Effigis; Environmental System Research Institute; EuroGeographics; European Space Agency; Eurostat; Geomares Publishing; Geospatial Media and Communications; GeoSUR; GeoThings; Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data; Global Resources Management Consultancy Inc.; Global Spatial Data Infrastructure; Google; Group on Earth Observations; Harris Corporation; Hexagon; Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team; Institute of Photogrammetry and GeoInformation; International Association of Geodesy; International Cartographic Association; International Federation of Surveyors; International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing; Kokusai Kogyo Co. Ltd.; KU Leuven; Land Equity International; Location International Ltd.; MapAction; China Sciences Mapuniverse Technology Co., Ltd.; National Autonomous University of Mexico; Omidyar Network; Open Geospatial Consortium; Oracle; Pasco Corporation; Pan American Institute of Geography and History; Pitney Bowes Inc.; Planet Labs; Politecnico di Milano; PrecisionHawk; Radiant Earth; Royal Academy of Science International Trust; Taylor & Francis Group; Ter Haar Geoinnovation Limited; Institute for Conscious Global Change; Trimble Inc.; University of Maine (United States); University of Melbourne; University of New South Wales; and University of Twente.

E. Documentation

95. The documents before the Committee of Experts at its seventh session are available from the website of the Committee of Experts at http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html.

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